

## Winter Weather Advisory and Warning Criteria Chart and Common Winter Terminology

<i>Event Type</i>	<i>Advisories</i>	<i>Warnings</i>
<i>Snow</i>	2-5 inches of snow in 12 hours <b>Snow Advisory</b>	6 inches or more in 12 hours, or 8 inches in 24 hours. <b>Heavy Snow Warning</b>
<i>Blizzard</i>	none - see blowing snow	Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph with visibility below a 1/4 mile for three hours or more. <b>Blizzard Warning</b>
<i>Blowing Snow</i>	Visibility at or less than a ½ mile in blowing snow. Snowfall can be occurring, or it could already be on the ground. <b>Blowing Snow Advisory</b>	none- see Blizzard
<i>Ice/Sleet</i>	none - use freezing rain/drizzle criteria <b>Sleet Advisory</b>	Accumulations of .25" or more of ice <b>Ice Storm Warning</b>
<i>Freezing Rain/ Drizzle</i>	Light ice accumulation of less than .25" <b>Freezing Rain Advisory</b>	none - use Ice/Sleet Criteria
<i>Wind Chill</i>	Wind chills of 20 to 39 below zero with a 10 mph or higher wind <b>Wind Chill Advisory</b>	Wind Chills of 40 below zero or colder with a 10 mph or higher wind <b>Wind Chill Warning</b>
<i>Winter Weather/Storm</i>	More than one predominant weather type meeting advisory criteria for at least one precipitation type <b>Winter Weather Advisory</b>	More than one predominant weather type meeting warning criteria for at least one precipitation type <b>Winter Storm Warning</b>
<i>Wind – no precipitation occurring</i>	Sustained winds of 20 mph and/or any gusts to 30 mph for three hours or more on Fort Peck Lake <b>Lake Wind Advisory</b>	Winds sustained at 40 mph or higher for one hour, and/or wind gusts to 58 mph or higher. <b>High Wind Warning</b>

## Winter Weather Terminology:

**Hazardous Weather Outlook:** Issued when there is a threat of hazardous weather in the next 7 days. There is a lot of uncertainty with timing of events, as well as how much snowfall, or how high winds may get, but it gives the user a chance to prepare for potentially threatening weather.

**Watch:** Issued 12 to 48 hour in advance of an impending weather events. There is still some uncertainty at this point, but it allows the users to reschedule appointments, stock up on supplies and be ready for a potentially life or property threatening event.

**Advisory:** This is an event that is either going to be occurring in the next 12 hours or is occurring already. This event inconveniences the public in such ways that you may need more time to reach a destination, but is not generally life threatening. Caution should be taken, but most day to day activities can still occur.

**Warning:** This is an event that is either going to be occurring in the next 12 hours or is occurring already. There is a significant threat to life, property and livestock. Routine activities should be reevaluated, and rescheduled. Travel is not recommended.